Word Part Detectives

Sort words, explain two choices, and make new words.

RF.3.3.a "Identify, decode, encode and know the meaning of words with the most common prefixes and derivational suffixes, including Latin suffixes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

A prefix goes at the beginning of a base word. It changes the word's meaning.

unpack

SUFFIX

A suffix goes at the end of a base word. It can change the word's meaning or make it a different kind of word.

hopeful

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word; for Part 2, choose two numbered words and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	rewrite	PREFIX SUFFIX
2.	dislike	PREFIX SUFFIX
3.	careless	PREFIX SUFFIX
4.	preheat	PREFIX SUFFIX
5.	kindness	PREFIX SUFFIX
6.	readable	PREFIX SUFFIX
7.	misplace	PREFIX SUFFIX
8.	teacher	PREFIX SUFFIX

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word with a prefix and one new word with a suffix. Do not use a word from Part 1 or the rule box.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Make a new word with the suffix -able. Write its base word and tell what the new word means.

ANSWER KEY

Word Part Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	rewrite	**PREFIX**	re + write; write again.
2	dislike	**PREFIX**	dis + like; not like.
3	careless	**SUFFIX**	care + less; without care.
4	preheat	**PREFIX**	pre + heat; heat before.
5	kindness	**SUFFIX**	kind + ness; the quality of being kind.
6	readable	**SUFFIX**	read + able; able to be read.
7	misplace	**PREFIX**	mis + place; put in the wrong place.
8	teacher	**SUFFIX**	teach + er; a person who teaches.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PREFIX**: overcook
- **SUFFIX**: playful

Challenge: wash + able = washable. Washable means able to be washed.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the word part and tell whether it comes before or after the base word. For Part 3, check that each new word has a recognizable base word and the requested word part.